

CONCORDIA COUNCIL ON STUDENT LIFE
MINUTES OF MEETING
OCTOBER 23, 1998 H 769 SGW CAMPUS

- Present:** Dr. D. Boisvert, Chair, Mr. R. Boncore, Ms. C. Boujaklian, Mr. R. Côté,
Mr. W. Curran, Ms. J. Deri, Ms. A. Ghabban, Dr. S.M. Graub, Mr. R. Green,
Mr. J. Johnson, Mr. M. Logan, Ms. T. Ryan, Dr. F. Shaver, Ms. A. Siano,
Ms. L. Toscano, Mr. H. Zarins
- Regrets:** Mr. M. Bujold, Mr. C. Dennis, Ms. J. Hackett, Mr. D. Hinton , Ms. A. Kerby,
Ms. L.Lipscombe, Mr. R. MacIver, Ms. A. Vroom
- Delegates:** Ms. D. Gleason represented Ms. K. Hedrich
- Guests:** Ms. Muriel Munoz, Student Advocate, Ms. Jackie Chegrinec, Vice Rector Services

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with the following modifications:

- 7 Report from the Chair of Recreation & Athletics Board will be made by Harry Zarins,
Director, Recreation & Athletics, in Ann Kerby's absence.
- 8.2 Nancy Torbit Memorial Fund

A motion to approve the agenda as amended was carried

2. Remarks from the Chair

Dr. Boisvert offered congratulations to the staff of Campus Ministry on the success of the Multi Faith Festival which was held on the Mezzanine on Tuesday, October 22, 1998. He also congratulated the staff of Student Services, in particular Jocelyne Cottier, on the Student Services Festival which was held yesterday on the Mezzanine.

Dr. Boisvert highlighted the Undergraduate Awards Ceremony which took place Wednesday, October 23 at the Concert Hall on the Loyola Campus. He informed Council that the Nancy Torbit Memorial Fund was inducted at this ceremony.

Dr. Boisvert informed Council that in light of the fact that the staff in the Health Services and Counselling & Development had expressed strong concerns with the plans to integrate their departments, the discussions are no longer formally underway. This item will be discussed under New Business.

3. Approval of the Minutes of May 22, 1998 & September 25, 1998

A motion to approve the Minutes of May 22 was made by Mr. Côté and seconded by Dr. Graub.

The motion was carried

A motion to approve the Minutes of September 25 was made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Ryan.

The motion was carried

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

4.1 CCSL Mandate Dr. Boisvert addressed the current mandate of CCSL. He noted that CCSL is the only student parity body in the University and that this parity is important to maintain. He then opened the floor for discussion on the mandate.

Mr. Côté gave some historical background to the issue. Mr. Côté stated that in his opinion it is better for CCSL to continue to report to the Board of Governors through the Rector. Dr. Shaver asked for clarification on the sentence "...The Council derives its authority from the University Board of Governors, and reports directly to the Board through the Rector". Dr. Boisvert responded that the "authority" from the Board of Governors provides CCSL with the right to proceed in making changes, etc. He stated that having CCSL report directly to the Board of Governors could raise more barriers. It is easier to deal directly with one person, in this case the Rector, than to deal with a board which can be more cumbersome. He stated that to date the system of reporting through the Rector has worked well. After some discussion on what types of issues would be reported to the Board through the Rector, Mr. Green, seconded by Mr. Côté, made the following motion:

Be it resolved that the word "directly" be removed from the last sentence of the first paragraph, item #1 Authority and Mandate: "...The Council derives its authority from the University Board of Governors, and reports to the Board through the Rector".

The motion was carried

Dr. Boisvert indicated that the second item to be discussed under the Mandate is the composition. Currently the membership lists the Associate Vice-Rector, Services (Student Life) as Chair. As this position of Associate Vice Rector, Student Life, no longer exists, the position of Chair is now held by the Dean of Students. As a result, in order to keep parity, there is a need for 1 additional non-student member. Council discussed the benefits of having either an additional faculty member or an additional Student Services staff member. Mr. Côté stated that this may be an opportune time to create a third position for Student Services staff who are not considered professional or support. Ms. Ryan expressed her desire to have more faculty members on CCSL. Mr. Logan agreed with this sentiment, stating that he felt students have more of a connection to faculty than to staff. Dr. Shaver spoke on her role as a Vice Dean Student Affairs and how important connections can be between her position and CCSL. Ms. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Logan, made the following motion:

Be it resolved that a second faculty member be added to the membership of CCSL on the condition that one of the two faculty positions should be filled by faculty at the level of an Associate Dean or Vice Dean Student Affairs from one of the Faculties.

The motion was carried

4.2 Vice Rector's Report on the Hall Building Protest Incident

The Vice-Rector's Report was circulated to Council. However as Mr. Emond was not present at the meeting, Dr. Boisvert asked that the report be tabled and discussed at the next meeting of CCSL.

5. Reports

5.1 Student Advocate Program (Advocacy & Support Services) Angela Ghadban, Assistant to the Director, Advocacy & Support Services, and Muriel Munoz, Student Advocate, gave a presentation on this program. Ms Ghadban briefly gave a history of the program. It was initially a pilot project in 1995 between Advocacy and the Arts & Science Faculty to offer assistance to undergraduate students in that faculty by trained volunteer students from the Peer Helper Program. Over the years due to time limitations of using volunteers, it became necessary to change the structure of the program. Currently one, or more students are hired for part-time paid positions in the Advocacy & Support Services Office to take on the role of Student Advocate. In the past few years, the Student Advocate Program has

developed and grown and is now supporting undergraduate and graduate students in all faculties for charges coming from within both the Code of Conduct (Academic) and the Code of Rights & Responsibilities. The students are also available to assist with research on issues relative to their role as Student Advocates as well as assist with clerical duties in the Advocacy Office and Legal Information Services. Ms Munoz spoke briefly on the role of student advocates. She explained the various ways the program helps students: explaining university regulations, guidance through the "system", appropriate referrals to university and community resources as well as helping students prepare for interviews or hearings. If students request it, the advocate may attend these interviews and hearings to assist them, or may act as formal representatives in hearings and meetings involving academic and non-academic cases. The philosophy of the Student Advocate Program is to promote fairness by striving to protect the students rights, but acknowledging the responsibility of the students for their actions and for the consequences of their actions. The Program assists students, but it does not make decisions for the students. Finally, Ms Munoz stressed that the judicial process is one that should be educational and not punitive. Dr. Boisvert thanked Ms Ghabban and Ms Munoz for a most informative and interesting presentation. Dr. Shaver commented on her role with the Student Advocate Program. She said she was impressed with the quality of the program and with the extensive training provided for the student advocates.

6. Student Life Issues

6.1 Outside commercial ads on University premises Dr. Boisvert announced that he took it upon himself as Chair to add this item to the agenda due to the current discussions that are taking place at the University. Although it would be more beneficial to discuss this issue with the Vice Rector Services present, it was agreed that Council would begin discussions that would continue at the next meeting of CCSL.

Discussion on the appropriateness of the presence of commercial ads; the values being advocated; the content of the ads; their environmental impact, and the corporate responsibilities of advertisers, took place. Members of the University are concerned that Concordia is beginning to look more like a flea market than an academic institution. Concerns were raised that the income from the advertising is often necessary to supplement some budgets, notably the recycling programme. Council was in agreement that there is certainly a need for a policy and guidelines that will address all the issues concerned. Ms. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Green made the following motion:

Be it resolved that CCSL strike a small Task Force to look at the issues of commercial advertisement on campus.

The motion was carried

Mr. Green suggested that a member from QPIRG be on the Task Force. The Membership of the Task Force is: Mr. Rob Green, Ms. Jackie Chegrinec, Ms. Angie Siano and one member of QPIRG. Ms Siano agreed to convene the first meeting of the Task Force. It was agreed that the Task Force would report at the November CCSL meeting. Mr. Curran noted that the issue of content of ads is not solvable by a Task Force but he felt there should be ongoing discussions on the appropriateness of any advertising on campus.

7. Report on the Recreation & Athletics Board

Mr. Zarins introduced his report by updating Council on recent activities of the Recreation & Athletics Department, highlighting student athlete achievement and participation of student athletes in university events. The first meeting of the Recreation & Athletics Board was held on October 2, 1998. The focus of the Board for the coming year will be to set the criteria for adding and deleting sports; fiscal stability; and facilities development. Mr. Zarins commented on the latest CIAU entry scholarship debate.

Mr. Johnson asked about limited hours allowed for Concordia students under the current agreement with the Marianapolis College pool. Mr. Zarins will look into this issue.

8. New Business

8.1 Advisory Selection Committee, Director of Health Services A motion to approve the proposed composition of the Advisory Selection Committee for a Director of Health Services was made by Dr. Graub and seconded by Mr. Zarins:

Be it resolved that the composition of the Advisory Selection Committee for the Director of Health Services is as follows:

Dean of Students, Chair

1 Student Services Director, appointed by CCSL upon recommendation of the Dean of Students.

3 staff members from Health Services, chosen by and from the staff of Health Services

1 Student Services staff member from an area other than Health Services, appointed by CCSL upon recommendation of the Dean of Students

5 students (4 undergraduate, 1 graduate) appointed by CCSL

The motion was carried

Dr. Boisvert made the following recommendations to Council:

that Dr. S.M. Graub be appointed as the Student Services Director.

that Rev. David Eley, (Chaplain and faculty) be appointed as the Student Services staff member.

These recommendations were carried

Dr. Boisvert will consult with Mr. Green on the appointments of four undergraduate students. He will also look into the appointment of a graduate student. Dr. Boisvert will meet with the Health Services staff to oversee the election of the three staff appointments.

8.2 Nancy Torbit Memorial Fund When Nancy Torbit (Director, Health Services) died in May 1998, the Student Services Directors agreed to set up a bursary in her honour. It was agreed that \$16,000 would be used from the Student Services budget to set up this endowment fund. Mr. Côté made the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED that CCSL endorse the allocation of \$16,000 from the Student Services appropriation account as endowment for the Nancy Torbit Memorial Fund, and that the Dean of Students be authorized to make the necessary transfer of funds.

The motion was carried

9. Next meeting: November 27, 1998 AD 131, Loyola

10. Meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.